

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Matthew Dicke on 1/19/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gaming device, said gaming device comprising:

a display device;

an input device, the input device including a cashout selector;

a processor; and

a memory device storing a plurality of instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processor to operate with the display device and the input device to:

- (i) enable a player to deposit money on the gaming device;
- (ii) add the amount of money to a credit meter;
- (iii) after each placement of a wager of an amount of money on a play of a wagering game by the player:
 - (a) deduct the wager from the credit meter,
 - (b) display the play of the wagering game, and
 - (c) add any amounts resulting from any winning outcomes from the play of the wagering game to the credit meter, such that after said play of the wagering game and before a subsequent play of the

wagering game, the credit meter has a current total at that point in time;

- (iv) if the player selects the cashout selector at a first point in time, the first point in time being after one of the plays of the wagering game, before a subsequent play of the wagering game and when the current total is greater than zero:

- (a) display a cashout menu, the cashout menu simultaneously displaying at least two different cashout options, ~~the at least two different cashout options including:~~

(i) ~~a first cashout option including a payout to the player of a first amount of the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time and in a first payout form, and~~

(ii) ~~a second cashout option including a transfer of a second amount of the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time and to a casino account, the casino account being stored at a location remote from the gaming device, and wherein the first payout form is different than the casino account and the first and second amounts are both deducted from the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time,~~

- (b) simultaneously enable the player to select ~~the first amount and the second amount, and~~

- (c) ~~enable the player to execute the first cashout option and the second cashout option;~~

- (v) ~~after the player executes the first cashout option, if the first amount is greater than zero,~~ provide the player the first amount in the first payout form; and

- (vi) ~~after the player executes the second cashout option, if the second amount is greater than zero,~~ transfer the second amount to the casino account stored at the location remote from the gaming device.

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(i) a first cashout option including a payout to the player of a first amount of the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time in a first payout form, and
(ii) a second cashout option including a transfer of a second amount of the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time to a casino account, the casino account being stored at a location remote from the gaming device, and wherein the first payout form is different than the casino account and the first and second amounts are both deducted from the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time;

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Claim 2 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the wagering game is selected from the group consisting of: slot, poker, keno, blackjack, craps and bingo.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the first payout form is selected from the group consisting of: coins, tokens, a ticket, a credit card crediting, a debit card crediting, a promotional ticket, a jackpot ticket and any combination thereof.

Claim 4 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the casino account is accessible via a player tracking card.

Claim 5 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the casino account is communicated through a player tracking card network.

Claim 6 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the casino account is accessible with a device different than a player tracking card.

Claim 7 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the casino account is communicated through a network different than a player tracking card network.

Claim 8 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the casino account is communicated through a ticketing network.

Claim 9 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the casino account is accessible at multiple casinos.

Claim 10 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the casino account is accessible for non-gaming purchases.

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Claim 11 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the casino account is accessible for transferring funds between multiple machines.

Claim 12 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein said the cashout menu includes a selector that enables the player to select the first amount.

Claim 13 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the cashout menu includes a selector that enables the player to select the second amount.

Claim 14 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the cashout menu includes input devices configured so that the first and second amounts do not necessarily add to a total cashout.

Claim 15 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein increasing the first amount automatically decreases the second amount and increasing the second amount automatically decreases the first amount.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the cashout menu includes a display of an addition of the first amount and the second amount.

Claim 17 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the cashout menu includes a cancel selector that cancels the request.

Claim 18 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the cashout menu includes a selector that returns the player to the wagering game.

Claim 19 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the cashout menu includes a selector that enables the player to transfer funds between multiple machines.

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Claim 20 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the game is provided via a data network to a computer storage device.

Claim 21 (original): The gaming device of Claim 20, wherein the data network includes an internet.

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Claim 22 (currently amended): A gaming device, said gaming device comprising:

- a display device;
- a cashout selector;
- a processor; and

a memory device storing a plurality of instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processor to operate with the display device and the cashout selector to:

- (i) enable a player to deposit money on the gaming device;
- (ii) add the amount of money to a credit meter;
- (iii) after each placement of a wager of an amount of money on a play of a wagering game by the player:
 - (a) deduct the wager from the credit meter,
 - (b) display the play of the wagering game, and
 - (c) add any amounts resulting from any winning outcomes from the play of the wagering game to the credit meter, such that after said play of the wagering game and before a subsequent play of the wagering game, the credit meter has a current total at that point in time;
- (iv) if the player selects the cashout selector at a first point in time, the first point in time being after one of the plays of the wagering game, before a subsequent play of the wagering game and when the current total is greater than zero:
 - (a) display a cashout menu, the cashout menu simultaneously displaying at least two different cashout options, the at least two different cashout options including:
 - (i) a first cashout option including a payout to the player of a first amount of the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time and on a ticket, and

- (ii) a second cashout option including a transfer of a second amount of the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time and to a casino account, the casino account being stored at a location remote from the gaming device, and wherein the first and second amounts are both deducted from the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time,
- (b) simultaneously enable the player to select the first amount and the second amount
- and
- (c) enable the player to execute the first cashout option and the second cashout option;
- (v) after the player executes the first cashout option, if the first amount is greater than zero, provide the player the first amount on the ticket; and
- (vi) after the player executes the second cashout option, if the second amount is greater than zero, transfer the second amount to the casino account stored at the location remote from the gaming device.

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(ii) a second cashout option including a transfer of a second amount of the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time to a casino account, the casino account being stored at a location remote from the gaming device, and wherein the first and second amounts are both deducted from the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time;

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Claim 23 (original): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein the wagering game is selected from the group consisting of: slot, poker, keno, blackjack, craps and bingo.

Claim 24 (original): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein the casino account is accessible via a player tracking card.

Claim 25 (original): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein the casino account is communicated through a player tracking card network.

Claim 26 (original): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein the casino account is accessible with a device different than a player tracking card.

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Claim 27 (original): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein the casino account is communicated through a network different than a player tracking card network.

Claim 28 (original): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein the casino account is communicated through a ticketing network.

Claim 29 (original): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein the first and second amounts are player selectable.

Claim 30 (original): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein the casino account is accessible at multiple casinos.

Claim 31 (original): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein the casino account is accessible for non-gaming purchases.

Claim 32 (original): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein the casino account is accessible for transferring funds between multiple machines.

Claim 33 (original): The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein increasing the first amount automatically decreases the second amount and increasing the second amount automatically decreases the first amount.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A networking system for a plurality of gaming devices, said system comprising:

a plurality of gaming devices located at a gaming establishment, each gaming device configured to:

- (i) enable a player to deposit money on the gaming device;
- (ii) add the amount of money to a credit meter;
- (iii) after each placement of a wager of an amount of money on a play of a wagering game by the player:

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- (a) deduct the wager from the credit meter,
- (b) display the play of the wagering game, and
- (c) add any amounts resulting from any winning outcomes from the play of the wagering game to the credit meter, such that after said play of the wagering game and before a subsequent play of the wagering game, the credit meter has a current total at that point in time;

a server computer and a communications link linking the server computer to the plurality of gaming devices; and

a fund transfer account program stored by a memory device, said program executable by the server computer, for at least one of said gaming devices, to:

if the player selects a cashout selector at a first point in time, the first point in time being after one of the plays of the wagering game, before a subsequent play of the wagering game and when the current total is greater than zero:

- (i) cause said gaming device to display a cashout menu simultaneously including at least two different cashout options, the at least two different cashout options including:
 - (a) a transfer of a first amount of the current total displayed by said gaming device at the credit meter at the first point in time and to a casino account stored at a location remote from the gaming device; and
 - (b) a payout of a second amount of the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time and in a selectable payout form, wherein the first amount may be retrieved at a later time and the first and second amounts are deducted from the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time, and
- (ii) simultaneously enable the player to select the first amount and the second amount.

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 (a) a transfer of a first amount of the current total displayed by said gaming device at the credit meter at the first point in time to a casino account stored at a location remote from the gaming device; and ¶
 (b) a payout of a second amount of the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time in a selectable payout form, wherein the first amount may be retrieved at a later time and the first and second amounts are deducted from the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time

Claim 35 (original): The system of Claim 34, wherein the server computer is located in the same establishment as the multiple gaming devices.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The system of Claim 34, wherein the server computer is located in a different establishment than the multiple gaming devices.

Claim 37 (original): The system of Claim 34, wherein the communications link also communicates ticketing information to and from the gaming devices.

Claim 38 (original): The system of Claim 34, wherein the server computer also controls a player tracking program offered by the establishment.

Claim 39 (original): The system of Claim 34, wherein the communications link also communicates player tracking information from the gaming devices.

Claims 40 to 41 (cancelled).

Claim 42 (previously presented): The system of Claim 34, wherein the selectable payout form is selected from the group consisting of: coins, tokens, a ticket, a credit card crediting, a debit card crediting, a player tracking card crediting, a jackpot crediting and any combination thereof.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The system of Claim 34, wherein the player is enabled to retrieve selectable portions of the first amount at the later time.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The system of Claim 34, wherein the player is enabled to retrieve the first amount at one of the gaming devices.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The system of Claim 34, wherein the player is enabled to retrieve the first amount at a location distinct from the gaming devices.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The system of Claim 34, wherein the gaming device is a first gaming device, and wherein the first amount is able to be retrieved at a second gaming device.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The system of Claim 46, wherein a portion of the first amount is able to be retrieved at a third gaming device.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The system of Claim 46, wherein the player is a first player and the first amount is able to be retrieved at the second gaming device by a second player.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The system of Claim 46, wherein the first amount is able to be retrieved at the second gaming device by the same player.

Claim 50 (original): The system of Claim 34, wherein the casino account is accessed via a card accepted by one of the gaming devices, and wherein the card is additionally accepted at locations within a gaming establishment that are distinct from the gaming devices.

Claim 51 (original): The system of Claim 34, wherein the card is additionally accepted at locations outside the gaming establishment.

Claim 52 (currently amended): A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising:

- (a) enabling a player to place money on the gaming device;
- (b) adding the amount of money to a credit meter;
- (c) after each placement of a wager of an amount of money on a play of a wagering game by the player:
 - (i) deducting the wager from the credit meter,
 - (ii) displaying the play of the wagering game, and
 - (iii) adding any amounts resulting from any winning outcomes from the play of the wagering game to the credit meter, such that after said play of the wagering game and before a subsequent play of the wagering game, the credit meter has a current total at that point in time;
- (d) enabling the player to select a cashout selector; and
- (e) if the player selects the cashout selector at a first point in time, the first point in time being after one of the plays of the wagering game, before a subsequent play of the wagering game and when the current total is greater than zero:
 - (i) displaying a cashout menu that simultaneously displays at least two different payout forms, each payout form having a selector, one of the payout forms including a transfer to a casino account stored at a location remote from the gaming device, and
 - (ii) simultaneously enabling the player to:
 - (a) select a first amount associated with a cashout of the first amount of the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time in a first payout form by selecting the selector associated with the first payout form; and
 - (b) select a second amount associated with a cashout of the second amount of the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time by a transfer to a casino account stored at the location remote from the gaming device by selecting the

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selector associated with the transfer to the casino account, wherein the first payout form is different than the casino account and both the first portion and the second portion are deducted from the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time;

(iii) ~~enabling the player to request the cashout of the first amount and the cashout of the second amount;~~

(iv) ~~after the player requests the cashout of the first amount,~~ transferring the first portion of the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time to the player in the first payout form; and

(v) ~~after the player requests the cashout of the second amount,~~ transferring the second portion of the current total of the credit meter at the first point in time to the casino account stored at the location remote from the gaming device.

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Claims 53 to 54 (cancelled).

Claim 55 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52, which includes displaying on the menu the sum of the first portion and the second portion of the current displayed total of the credit meter.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52, which includes displaying on the menu an input that triggers payment of the current displayed total of the credit meter in the first form.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52, which includes displaying on the menu an input that triggers a crediting of the current displayed total of the credit meter to the casino account.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52, which includes enabling the player to transfer a third portion of the current displayed total of the credit meter to a different gaming device.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The system of Claim 34, which includes a ticketing system accessible through the gaming devices.

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: The drawings should include an account remote from the gaming device as one of the cashout options. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: A thorough search for prior art fails to disclose any reference or references, which taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest, in combination with the other limitations, "simultaneously displays at least two different payout options" in combination with "simultaneously enabling the player to select the first amount and the second amount."

The closest prior art is Walker (US 6,168,522). Walker discloses a gaming device in which a dispensed amount may be credited to an account and paid to the player. However, Walker discloses this feature based on the winnings from a play of the game and not the general total credit meter. Thus, Walker structurally and functionally lacks the means for providing a gaming device in which the player may cash out the general

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total credit meter in two, simultaneously displayed, options for which the amount for each may be selected by the player on the same display. For at least these reasons, claims 1, 22, 34, 52 and the claims dependent thereon are allowed over Walker or any other prior art of record, taken alone or in combination.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDREW KIM whose telephone number is (571)272-1691. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joe Cheng can be reached on 571-272-4433. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dmitry Suhol/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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5/20/2010 /A. K./
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